X MEN

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THE ALL-NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT X-MEN™

DEATH SIEGE!

Cockrum

Cyclops. Storm. Banshee. Nightcrawler. Wolverine. Colossus. Children of the atom, students of Charles Xavier, MUTANTS——feared and hated by the world they have sworn to protect. These are the STRANGEST heroes of all!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE UNCANNY X-MEN!™

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THE FALL OF THE TOWER

CASSIDY KEEP, COUNTY MAYO, IRELAND...

D'YE HEAR, DONAL? THE CASTLE'S GONE ALL QUIET!

AYE! THE BATTLE'S OVER, WITH BLACK TOM CASSIDY AND JUGGERNAUT THE VICTORS!

AN' AS FER BANSHEE AN' HIS FELLOW X-MEN--

--THEY'RE ALL AS GOOD AS DEAD.

NOT ALL, PADRAIC. WE MANAGED T' SAVE THIS ONE, CALLED NIGHTCRAWLER.

NOW HUSH UP, THE LOT OF YE'S-- AN' LET'S GET THIS BOYO T' SAFETY WHILE WE'VE STILL GOT THE CHANCE.

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THE X-MEN BEATEN! IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE.

AFTER ALL, THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A VACATION, A CHANCE FOR THEM TO WIND DOWN FROM THE GRIND OF THE PAST MONTHS.

ONLY IT HADN'T QUITE WORKED OUT THAT WAY. *

* AS WE ALL SAW LAST ISSUE, RIGHT? --ARCHIE.

DONAL, THE FELLA'S WAKIN' UP! WHAT'LL WE DO?!

HOLD ONTO HIM, YE SILLY NIT! AN' KEEP HIM QUIET!

IF HE STARTS YELLIN', WE'RE LOST!

AH, BUT THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE, DONAL O'BRADAIGH...

WATCH OUT! HE'S FREE!

HOLD ON, WOLVERINE! I'LL--

--I'LL...WOLVERINE? WHERE ARE YOU-- ACH, WHERE AM I?

I MUST BE DREAMING. WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE BATTLE?

AND WHO ARE THESE... PEOPLE?!?

YOU'RE ALL... LITTLE... AND YOUR EARS ARE POINTED LIKE MINE.

I AM DREAMING, BECAUSE THAT WOULD MEAN YOU'RE...YOU'RE --NO, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

IT'S NOT, Y'KNOW.

LEPRECHAUNS?! PHANTASTISCH! I'M TALKING TO REAL-- OH, WAIT UNTIL I TELL MY FRIENDS!

MEIN GOTT! MY FRIENDS! THE BATTLE! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THEM?!

THEY'VE BEEN CAPTURED, NIGHTCRAWLER, BY BLACK TOM AND JUGGERNAUT.

WHO--?! OH, IT'S--

EAMON O'DONNELL, MY FRIEND--

--THE SENESCHAL O' CASSIDY KEEP, AND-- 'TIL BLACK TOM CAME--THE MAN WHO KEPT THE FAMILIES SAFE FROM HARM. Y'SEE, YOUR FRIENDS ARE IN DEADLY DANGER, IT'S TRUE...

...BUT SO ARE MINE.

"IT BEGAN ABOUT A MONTH AGO, WHEN BLACK TOM CASSIDY TRICKED HIS WAY BACK INTO THIS CASTLE THAT HAD ONCE BEEN HIS HOME.

"HE BROUGHT JUGGERNAUT IN WITH HIM! YE CAN GUESS WHAT HAPPENED NEXT.

"THAT FIRST NIGHT, THEY TOOK MOST OF THE FAMILIES PRISONER--

"--AND HELD THEIR LIVES HOSTAGE AGAINST MY GOOD BEHAVIOR.

"AN' NOT JUST FOR HIMSELF ALONE, EITHER. HE TOOK ORDERS FROM A TALL MAN IN RED ARMOR AN' A HORNED HELMET."

"I TRIED TO GET A WARNIN' OUT THRU LAWYER FLAHERTY, BUT HE MISUNDERSTOOD, THINKIN' THAT TOM WAS AFTER THIS CASTLE, BANSHEE'S INHERITANCE...

"...NEVER REALIZIN' THAT WHAT TOM WANTED WAS BANSHEE'S LIFE. ALL YER LIVES.

A MAN WITH A *VIKING* SOUNDING NAME? I THINK I *KNOW* WHO YOU MEAN.

BUT *FIRST* THINGS FIRST. WE NEED A *PLAN* TO RESCUE MY FRIENDS.

A *MOMENT*, NIGHTCRAWLER. I'VE BEEN *WONDERIN'* --

--WHEN WE *FOUND* YE, THE PART OF YE THAT LAY IN *SHADOW*, DISAP-PEARED!

HOW'D YE *DO* THAT?

YOU MUST BE *MISTAKEN*. I CAN'T DO ANYTHING LIKE *THAT*.

DON'T TELL *ME*, BOYO. I *SAW* IT!

MATTER O' FACT, YER *FACE* IS *ALWAYS* IN SHADOW.

THAT I *KNEW*-- BUT THIS *OTHER* THING...

STILL, IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD TO *CHECK*.

I'LL JUST *STICK* MY HAND INTO THIS *SHADOW* AND--

WOW.

THIS IS *INCREDIBLE!*

MY *HAND*-- IT.., IT WAS... *INVISIBLE!*

I'VE GOT TO *TRY* IT WITH MY *WHOLE BODY*.

EAMON, CAN YOU *SEE* ME?

ONLY YER *EYES*. I CAN *FEEL* YE, THOUGH--SO I GUESS YE'RE STILL *HERE*.

LORD, THIS IS *SPOOKY*.

EAMON O'DONNELL! COME QUICKLY!

BLACK TOM HAS THE *X-MEN* IN HIS *LABORATORY!*

HE'S PLANNIN' T' TOR-TURE THEM!

WHAT!?!

LORD AN' LADY PRESERVE ME.

THIS LABORATORY-- WHERE *IS* IT?! *QUICKLY*, MAN, *SHOW ME THE WAY!*

FOLLOW ME, NIGHTCRAWLER. I'LL HAVE YE THERE IN *NO TIME AT ALL.*

I ONLY *PRAY* WE'RE NOT TOO *LATE.*

YOU'RE NOT, EAMON O'DONNELL-- *FOR ALL THE GOOD* THAT DOES YOU.

OH, MY LORD, EAMON! MY *FRIENDS*--!

I *KNOW*, LAD. I FEEL THE *SAME WAY...*

...BECAUSE *MY* FRIENDS-- THE LEPRECHAUN *FAMILIES*-- ARE BEIN' HELD IN THE *DUNGEONS* BEHIND THIS LAB.

CALM YOURSELF, JUGGERNAUT. WHAT DOES IT *MATTER* THAT NIGHTCRAWLER *ESCAPED?*

ALONE, HE CAN DO US NO HARM--AND THE *OTHER* X-MEN'S *POWERS* ARE *NEUTRALIZED.* THEY'RE HELPLESS!

ONCE I'VE ACTIVATED MY *NEURONIC TANGLER GLOVE*, WE CAN BEGIN OUR *WORK* HERE IN *EARN-EST.*

WE DON'T *NEED* YOUR FANCY GLOVE, TOM, IF YOU WANT MY STEP-BROTHER'S PUPILS *HURT*--

NO, CAIN. THIS IS *ONE* INSTANCE WHERE BRUTE FORCE *ISN'T* THE ANSWER.

--*JUGGERNAUT* HAS THE *POWER* TO DO THAT AND *MORE!*

YOU SEE, MY FRIEND, THERE'S A *LIMIT* TO THE AMOUNT OF *PHYSICAL FORCE* A BODY CAN *STAND*.

YOUR WAY WOULD PROBABLY *KILL* THESE X-MEN *LONG BEFORE* THEY'VE SERVED THEIR *PURPOSE*.

BUT *MY* WAY *RAVAGES* THE *MIND*, YET LEAVES THE BODY *UNDAMAGED!* EXQUISITE, NEVER-ENDING *AGONY!*

XAVIER WILL DO *ANYTHING* TO SPARE HIS PUPILS *THAT* KIND OF PAIN.

HE'LL EVEN LET US *KILL HIM*.

SO IT'S THE *PROFESSOR* THEY WANT! THAT GIVES ME AN *IDEA*.

IF IT *DOESN'T WORK*, THOUGH, EAMON--

--SEND MY *BODY* TO XAVIER'S *SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS!*

BAMF

WHAT'S THAT *HELLISH STINK?!* SMELLS LIKE FIRE AND *BRIMSTONE!*

TOM! HE'S *HERE!* XAVIER'S *HERE!*

I UNDERSTAND YOU WISH TO *SEE* ME, JUGGERNAUT.

THERE WAS *NO NEED* TO *THREATEN* MY STUDENTS. ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS *ASK*.

YOU'VE GOT IT *WRONG*, MY DEARLY-HATED STEP-BROTHER--BECAUSE *ALL* TOM AND I WANT FROM *YOU*--

--IS YOUR *LIFE!*

I SEE.

I HOPE YOU'LL *EXCUSE* ME IF I DON'T LET YOU *TAKE IT.*

AH, CAIN, YOU MUST BE GETTING *SLOW* IN YOUR *OLD AGE.*

IS *THAT* WHY YOU NEEDED SOMEONE TO *HELP* YOU AMBUSH THE X-MEN *THIS TIME?*

YOU'RE... *LAUGHING* AT ME!

OF *COURSE*, DEAR BROTHER--THERE'S *SO MUCH* OF YOU TO *LAUGH AT!*

SHUT UP!

CAIN! SOMETHING'S *WRONG* HERE! I THOUGHT YOU SAID XAVIER WAS A *CRIPPLE?!*

THAT'S *ENOUGH* OUT OF *YOU!*

CONSIDER THIS *PARTIAL PAYMENT* FOR WHAT YOU DID TO *NIGHTCRAWLER!*

SINCE YOU'VE SUCH AN *AFFECTION* FOR THE *GOBLIN,* XAVIER--

ZRAK!

--I'LL BE *GLAD* TO BLAST YOU THE *SAME WAY* I DID *HIM!*

WHAT IN THE--?! HE'S *STICKING* TO THE *WALL!*

WHICH MEANS IT *ISN'T* MY STEP-BROTHER AT *ALL!* REGARDLESS OF WHAT HE *LOOKS LIKE--*

--IT'S GOT TO BE THAT *CURSED,* TWO-TOED, *BLUE-SKINNED FREAK!*

THE PUNCH HITS HOME WITH UNIM-AGINABLE FORCE, ITS SHOCK WAVES HAMMERING THRU THE ANCIENT GRANITE THAT FORMS CASSIDY CRAG...

SKAKOW!

...SHATTERING THE ROCK, POWDERING IT, SLAMMING EVER-OUTWARD, UNTIL...

BY ALL THE *GODS!* I--CAN SEE THE *SKY!*

A MOMENT, THAT'S *ALL* IT TAKES--AS THE *TRAU-MATIC CLAUSTROPHOBIA* THAT HAD HELD STORM *PRISONER* FAR MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN ANY OF BLACK TOM'S SHACKLES, *FALLS AWAY...*

THE *WITCH--* WHAT'S SHE *DOING?!*

...AND ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE!

NOT ALL, MIDGET! BANSHEE'S GOING NOWHERE!

STORM IS CREATING A HURRI-CANE--!

YOU GOT IT, RUSSKIE! AN' THE BIG WIND'S TAKIN' US OUTTA HERE!

FREE! GODS OF THE EARTH AND AIR BE PRAISED!

I AM FREE!

ANYTHING YOU SAY, LADY-- BUT HOW'S ABOUT PUTTIN' PETEY AN' ME DOWN, HUH?!

AND, ALMOST ON CUE...

HEY! NOT LIKE--

WHU-U-UFF!

KLUNK!

OH, MY ACHIN' BACK-- I TELL YA, BUB, THAT BROAD'S GONE FLAKEY! I MEAN, LOOK AT HER!

SHE IS VERY HAPPY, WOLVERINE. BUT DO NOT EVER CALL HER A "BROAD" AGAIN-- SHORTY!

MEANWHILE, BACK IN WHAT'S LEFT OF BLACK TOM'S LAB... THE WALLS HAVE INDEED COME TUMBLIN' DOWN.

THAT SUDDEN WIND--IT SMASHED EVERYTHING!

I THINK WE'VE A WAY OUT.

YOU AND YOUR BLOODY TEMPER! IF YOU HADN'T CUT LOOSE AT THE WALL LIKE THAT--!

I KNOW, TOM. I'M...SORRY.

BUT WE STILL HAVE BANSHEE.

LET'S GO.

AN' NOT A PEEP OUT O' THE LOT O' YE'S.

WHAT?! HIM AGAIN.

LOOKS LIKE HALF THE LAB FELL ON HIM.

WHAT IS IT, KELSON-- A DEMON?

A FRIEND. ONE WE'RE HONOR BOUND T' SAVE... PROVIDIN' HE'S STILL ALIVE.

AND, ON THAT "HOPEFUL" NOTE...

C'MON, BIG FELLA. GET THESE BOOTS OFF ME!

IT IS NO USE, WOLVERINE. THEY ARE MADE OF A METAL EVEN I CANNOT BREAK.

MAY I HELP, GENTLEMEN.

YOU, STORM?

LOOK, LADY, IF COLOSSUS CAN'T BREAK 'EM...

...WHAT D'YA THINK YOU CAN...

...DO...

KLIK

IN MY TIME, WOLVERINE, I WAS THE BEST LOCKPICK IN ALL CAIRO...

...BUT WE'LL TALK OF THAT LATER. AFTER WE'VE RESCUED OUR FRIENDS.

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MEANWHILE...

ALL RIGHT, CAIN-- WE'VE ARRIVED.

THRU THAT DOOR AND WE'LL BE OUT ON THE CASTLE'S BATTLEMENTS.

WHY'D WE BRING BANSHEE UP HERE, TOM? YOU PLANNING TO THROW HIM OFF?

IF IT COMES TO THAT.

BUT FIRST, WE'RE GOING TO TRY TALKING--

HEAR ME, X-MEN!

WE HAVE BANSHEE UP HERE WITH US! IF YOU WANT HIM BACK ALIVE--

--YOU'LL HAVE TO COME UP AND GET HIM!

YOU HAVE FIVE MINUTES, MY FRIENDS, 'TIL WE START SENDING HIM DOWN TO YOU--

--A PIECE AT A TIME!

IT'S A TRAP!

NO KIDDIN', LADY. BUT SO LONG AS THEY GOT IRISH PRISONER, THEY'RE HOLDIN' ALL THE ACES.

AND WHAT ABOUT NIGHT-CRAWLER? WE CANNOT JUST STAND HERE AND WATCH!

VERY WELL, THEN! IF BLACK TOM WISHES US TO *FIGHT* FOR BANSHEE'S FREEDOM, THAN FIGHT WE *SHALL*--

--AS ONLY THE X-MEN *CAN!*

YOU *DUMB* BROAD--COME *BACK HERE!* YOU GO *CHARGIN'* UP THERE *ALONE*, YOU'LL JUST GET YOURSELF *KILLED!*

F'R *CRYIN' OUT LOUD*, LADY! HOW'RE WE SUPPOSED TA *FOLLOW* YA, *HUH?!*

WOLVERINE...

HEEYYAAA

...I TOLD YOU *NEVER* TO CALL STORM A "*BROAD*" *AGAIN*. AND I *MEANT* IT.

HAPPY LANDINGS, TOVARISCH.

KRAK!

IT'S A *PITY*, THOUGH, THAT THERE'S *NO ONE* LEFT TO THROW *ME*.

I'M *AFRAID* I'LL HAVE TO *CLIMB* THIS WALL...

...THE *HARD WAY.*

"*HARD WAY*" IS *RIGHT*, YOU STEEL-SKINNED *CHUMP*--

--'CAUSE CLIMBIN' THE WALL LIKE *THAT* MAKES YOU A *SITTIN' DUCK* A BLIND MAN COULDN'T MISS!

GODS!

ENERGY BLASTERS BUILT INTO THE CASTLE'S TURRETS... OPENING FIRE AT ME!

IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR MY HOURS OF TRAINING IN THE DANGER ROOM, THESE BEAMS WOULD HAVE BURNED ME TO A CRISP!

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO KILL YOU, MUTANT?!

KB RAK!

PETER'S IN MORE TROUBLE THAN HE WILL ADMIT!

BUT I DARE NOT STOP TO AID HIM UNTIL THESE BLASTERS ARE SILENCED!

A FEW MINUTES AGO, THIS HAD BEEN A CALM, CLEAR NIGHT, WITH HARDLY A CLOUD TO MASK THE STARS...

...BUT THAT'S CHANGED...

...AS THE FURY OF STORM'S ATTACK TWISTS WEATHER PATTERNS FOR MILES AROUND, CREATING --IN AN INSTANT-- THE WORST ATLANTIC GALE IN LIVING MEMORY.

COLOSSUS, YOU STUPID--! YOU THREW ME SO FLAMIN' HARD, I LANDED ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE FLAMIN' CASTLE!

HOW D'YA EXPECT ME TA GET IN ON THE FIGHT, F'R CRYIN' OUT--!

I THINK I C'N HELP YE THERE, MR. COGAN.

HUH.?!? WHO THE BLAZES ARE YOU, BUB? AN' HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

I'M CALLED PADRAIC, MATE--AN' WE LITTLE PEOPLE KNOW A LOT O' THINGS.

NO WAY, BUB. THE WOLVERINE DON'T BELIEVE IN LEPRECHAUNS.

SUIT YERSELF. MAYBE LEPRECHAUNS DON'T BELIEVE IN TALKIN' WOLVERINES, EITHER.

NOW, ARE YE COMIN' WITH ME, OR NO?

MISSED HER!

AYE! SHE'S FAST--BUT THE BATTLE COMPUTERS ARE BEGINNING TO COMPENSATE. THEY'LL SOON HAVE HER PINNED IN A CROSS-FIRE.

AND THAT WILL BE THE END OF IT.

YOU'D CROW A DIFFERENT TUNE IF I WERE LOOSE, COUSIN...BUT I'M NOT. I HAVE TO STAND AN' WATCH AS YOU MURDER MY FRIE-- EH.?!

SNAP!

THANK YOUR LEPRECHAUN FRIENDS FOR SHOWING ME THE WAY UP!

TOM, THAT BLUE GOBLIN'S FREED BANSHEE!

OH-OH. WE'VE BEEN SPOTTED!

STOP HIM, CAIN, BEFORE--!

TOO LATE, COUSIN! I'M LOOSE OF YOUR SONIC GAG, AS WELL--AN' YOU'LL NOT TAKE ME PRISONER AGAIN!

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BANSHEE! THE JUGGERNAUT--!

NOT TO WORRY, NIGHTCRAWLER! JUGGERNAUT CAN'T CHARGE US IF HE'S GOT NO FLOOR UNDER HIM!

EEEEE!

CURSE YOUR SONIC SCREAM, BANSHEE!

BUT YOU'RE A FOOL IF YOU THINK A MERE FALL CAN STOP ME!

ALL YOU'VE DONE IS PUT OFF YOUR DEATHS FOR THE TIME IT TAKES ME TO CLIMB THOSE STAIRS!

FWHUMP!

THEN YOU WILL NOT CLIMB THESE STAIRS, JUGGERNAUT.

YOU CALLED IT, COLOSSUS. 'SIDES, JUGGY, YOU OWE US A REMATCH, ANYWAY.

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK IT WILL END ANY DIFFERENTLY THAN OUR FIRST BATTLE? YOU'VE JUST SIGNED YOUR DEATH WARRANTS, X-MEN!

I'M COMIN' FER YE, BLACK TOM!

THAT'S THE SPIRIT, SEAN CASSIDY--

--PLAY THE HERO, AND RUSH BLITHELY INTO MY TRAP.

NO YE DON'T, COUSIN!

I MAY BE OLD BUT I'M NOT STUPID!

KR AK

AN' NOW I'VE A *WEAPON* O'ME *OWN!*

EXCELLENT.

AS OUR MUTANT POWERS *CANCEL* EACH OTHER OUT...

...IT'S ONLY FITTING THAT WE FIGHT OUR *FINAL DUEL* AS WARRIORS *SHOULD!*

MAN-TO-MAN, *BLADE-TO-BLADE!*

A *DUEL* THAT CAN HAVE BUT *ONE ENDING!*

AARRGH!

SHRAM

JUGGERNAUT-- AND THE *X-MEN!*

GOT YOU!!

KANG

YOUR *CONCERN* FOR YOUR COMPANIONS IS *TOUCHING*, COUSIN. SO TYPICAL OF YOU--

--BUT SO *COSTLY. FAREWELL*, BANSHEE!

ONLY *ONE* CHANCE!

WHA--?! YOU *MADMAN*, WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?!*

YOU'LL SEND US *BOTH* OVER THE *EDGE!*

NO, TOM.

I ONLY WISH IT *DIDN'T* HAVE TO END LIKE *THIS.*

TOM!

OUT OF MY WAY, YOU COSTUMED CLOWNS!

LOOK OUT, HE'S--

:UNNNGNH!:

HOLD ON, TOM! I'M COMING!

HE WAS THE ONLY FRIEND I EVER HAD, X-MEN-- AND SO HELP ME, IF YOU'VE KILLED HIM--

--I'LL MAKE YOU PAY!

IN AN INSTANT, JUGGERNAUT IS GONE, SWALLOWED UP BY THE FORCE 12 SURF, ALMOST AS IF HE HAD NEVER BEEN...

...HIS LIFE RISKED--PERHAPS LOST--IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO SAVE HIS FRIEND.

NOT A BAD EPITATH, THAT...

WIND AND WAVE, SEA AND STORM-- HEAR MY WORDS--

--AND BEGONE!

PRESTO!

THEY SEARCH ALL THAT DAY, BUT NO TRACE OF THEIR FOES' BODIES IS EVER FOUND.

FOR THE MOMENT, IT SEEMS, THE BATTLE IS OVER AND ALL IS ONCE MORE WELL IN THE WORLD...

FOR THE MOMENT...

...I WILL BROOK NO MORE FAILURES, IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?! PRINCESS NERAMANI IS DUE TO REACH EARTH IN A MATTER OF WEEKS.

WHATEVER HAPPENS AFTER THAT, SHE MUST NOT CONTACT THE X-MEN!

SHE WILL NOT, MY LIEGE--YOU HAVE MY WORD ON THAT.

I NOW HAVE AN ALLY WORTHY OF THE NAME, THE X-MEN'S OLDEST, DEADLIEST FOE...

XAVIER AND HIS STUDENTS WILL BE DEAD BEFORE THEY EVEN REALIZED THEY'RE UNDER ATTACK!

NEXT ISSUE: THE GENTLEMAN'S NAME IS MAGNETO! 'NUFF SAID